

AUGUST 28, 1962

FROM: INTERRELIGIOUS DELEGATION TO ALBANY, GEORGIA

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BACKGROUND INFORMATION ON CHICAGO DELEGATION
TO ALBANY, GEORGIA

1. 47 delegates. 14 Negro, 33 white, or 2/3 white.
2. One-half of delegates (23) report they can stay in Albany, if necessary, through September 2, 1962.
3. 8 delegates are women, 39 are men.
4. 9 Catholic laymen; 2 Jewish women; 36 Protestants.
5. The 36 Protestants are 22 clergymen and 14 laymen.
6. Denominational or religious affiliations follow:
(In alphabetical order)

Baptist	5	Evangelical and Reformed	1
Community Church	1	Lutheran	5
Chicago City Missionary Society and West Side Parish	5	Methodist	4
Chicago Theological Seminary	1	Presbyterian	7
		Roman Catholic	9
Church Federation of Greater Chicago	1	Unitarian	1
		United Church of Christ	2
Ecumenical Institute	1	Union of American Hebrew Congregations	2
Episcopal	2		<hr/> 47

7. Among the Lutherans are the Rev. Andrew Schultze, a professor at Valparaiso University; and the Rev. E. W. Halverson, a staff member of the National Lutheran Council. Delegate Paul Bosley, student at Chicago Theological Seminary, is the son of Dr. Harold Bosley, formerly pastor of the First Methodist Church of Evanston and now in New York City.

This is a message to the people of Albany, Georgia, from the clergymen of greater Chicago, being delivered to them by our representatives at a time of crisis in their community.

This message is prompted by the events of recent weeks in Albany. When a church is burned because it is used as a voter registration center, when persons are arrested as they seek to enter a church to worship, when citizens are denied the right to pray and to picket, then it is time for us to express our concern and to share our conviction.

We express our concern for all the people of Albany, including those who for whatever reason continue to exercise their influence to perpetuate injustice, those who stand aside wishing only that the tension would abate, those who may be innocent victims of either entrenched injustice or the struggle for change, and those who are giving themselves wholly to the struggle for freedom and reconciliation which can only follow the mutual recognition of the claims of justice.

We declare our conviction that the ache in the heart of America can only be removed when all men stand equal before the law and are free to worship and to participate in the common life without restraints based on color of skin.

But we acknowledge that this is a national problem and a national concern in which the life and destiny of persons in Chicago are inseparably involved in those of the persons of Albany. We share the conviction that Chicago as well as Albany requires sacrifice and dedication if freedom and justice are to become the rule of life. We therefore send this message with our delegates to Albany as a symbol of our solidarity with all persons who seek to witness against a segregated way of life, and particularly the freedom-loving people of Albany who in this crisis risk so much in a cause that is ours as well.

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